

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **EQ8 COLLABORATES WITH YAYASAN WAQAF MALAYSIA FOR WORLD'S FIRST WAQF ETF**



**From left:** Datuk Wira Ismitz Matthew De Alwis, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Kenanga Investors Berhad; Umar Alhadad, Executive Director, Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd; Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift, Chief Executive Officer, Bursa Malaysia Berhad; Datuk Kamarudin Hashim, Managing Director, Securities Commission Malaysia; Dr. Ridzwan Bakar, Chief Executive Officer, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia; Dato' Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Md. Yusof, Member of the Board of Trusts Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia.

**Kuala Lumpur, 12 June 2024** - Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd ("Eq8"), a member of Kenanga Investors Group, has announced a new strategic collaboration with Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia ("YWM") towards the launching of the first waqf-featured exchange-traded fund ("ETF") to be issued in the world.

As a leader in Shariah equity ETF, Eq8's collaboration with YWM is a continued partnership between Eq8's parent company, Kenanga Investors Berhad ("Kenanga Investors") and YWM, which commenced in 2021 with the launch of the Kenanga Waqf Al-Ihsan Fund in 2021, followed by the Kenanga Sustainability Series: Emergency Waqf Musa'adah Fund in 2022.

"Eq8, along with Kenanga Investors, continue to spearhead the charge in promoting waqf-related capital market products. We believe the new initiative will significantly contribute to the growth of the ETF market by drawing in investors who are not only interested in the financial benefits of ETFs, such as diversification and liquidity, but also in making a positive social impact through their investments. By merging financial gains with social returns, we can appeal to a broader range of investors, fostering greater innovation and expansion within the ETF sector", said Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kenanga Investors, Datuk Wira Ismitz Matthew De Alwis at the announcement of the collaboration held at the Kuala Lumpur

Convention Centre, witnessed by representatives from Securities Commission Malaysia, Bursa Malaysia, and the Board of Trustees of YWM.

Commenting on the features of the first-of-its-kind ETF, Umar Alhadad, Executive Director of Eq8, explained, “Expected to launch on Bursa Malaysia this year, the new waqf-featured ETF is designed to achieve steady capital growth and income distribution by investing in a diversified portfolio that adheres to Shariah principles. In accordance with the proposed waqf product feature, half of the derived income will be distributed to sectors such as education, healthcare, economic empowerment and environmental preservation or development. Our dual impact investing approach ensures that investors can profit with purpose, making a significant difference in the community while achieving their financial goals”.

The collaboration serves as Kenanga Investors’ alongside its subsidiary’s continued commitment in supporting the Securities Commission Malaysia’s Islamic Fund and Wealth Management Blueprint as well as the Waqf-Featured Fund Framework (“Framework”), introduced in 2017 and 2020 respectively. The Framework which was expanded further in 2022 was followed by enhancements to the Bursa Malaysia Main Market Listing Requirements to facilitate the offering of ETFs with waqf feature. The cohesive efforts from various segments of the industry signifies the nation’s efforts in taking lead within the Islamic finance space to include initiatives to integrate financial and social objectives towards socially impactful activities via waqf.

YWM’s Chief Executive Officer, YBr. Dr. Ridzwan Bakar said, “The upcoming launch of the world’s first global waqf featured ETF represents a milestone achievement aligned with Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia’s core objectives. By leveraging innovative waqf instruments, we aim to develop existing waqf properties, establish new waqfs, and drive economic empowerment within the ummah. This ETF not only provides a unique avenue for channelling funds into socially impactful projects but also amplifies the reach and effectiveness of our efforts. Our partnership with Eq8 and Kenanga Investors underscores our commitment to advancing the ummah economy and realising the full potential of waqf investments.”

The announcement follows Eq8’s recent rebranding exercise and product accessibility collaboration with Phillip Capital Management Sdn Bhd. This continuous momentum highlights Eq8’s dedication to promoting financial empowerment and inclusivity.

For more information about Eq8, please visit [www.eq8.com.my](http://www.eq8.com.my).

**About Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd 20070103439 (792968-D)**

Eq8 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kenanga Investors Berhad and was incorporated on 25 October 2007. Eq8 holds a Capital Markets Services Licence (CMSL) for fund management in relation to portfolio management which was issued by the Securities Commission Malaysia under the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007. Its principal business activity is the provision of Shariah-compliant investment management services.

Eq8 manages four equity Exchange Traded Fund (“ETF”) that are listed on Bursa Malaysia Securities with an asset under management of RM324 million as at 30 April 2024.

**About Kenanga Investors Berhad 199501024358 (353563-P)**

We provide investment solutions ranging from collective investment schemes, portfolio management services, and alternative investments for retail, corporate, institutional, and high net worth clients via a multi-distribution network.

The Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management's **2024 Best of the Best Awards** awarded KIB under the following categories, Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager, Best Impact Investing Manager in ASEAN, Malaysia Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CEO of the Year, Malaysia CIO of the Year, Malaysia Best House for Alternatives, Malaysia Most Improved Fund House and Malaysia Best Investor Education.

At the **LSEG Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2024**, KIB received awards for the Kenanga Malaysian Inc Fund ("KMIF") under the best Equity Malaysia Diversified – Malaysia Pension Funds over 10 Years and the Kenanga Diversified Fund ("KDF") under the best Mixed Asset MYR Flexible – Malaysia Pension Fund over 10 Years.

The FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2023/2024 named Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 as "Sector Equity – Malaysia Focused", Kenanga Shariah Growth Opportunities Fund as "Sector Equity - Malaysia Small to Medium Companies (Islamic)" and Kenanga Shariah OnePRS Growth Fund as "Private Retirement Scheme – Growth (Islamic)".

For the seventh consecutive year, KIB was affirmed an investment manager rating of **IMR-2** by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, since first rated in 2017. The IMR rating on KIB reflects the fund management company's well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices. As at end-June 2023, most of KIB's funds had performed better than benchmarks and were comparable to peers.

*This Press Release was issued by Kenanga Group's Marketing & Communications department.*

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